

# Our Family News Letter

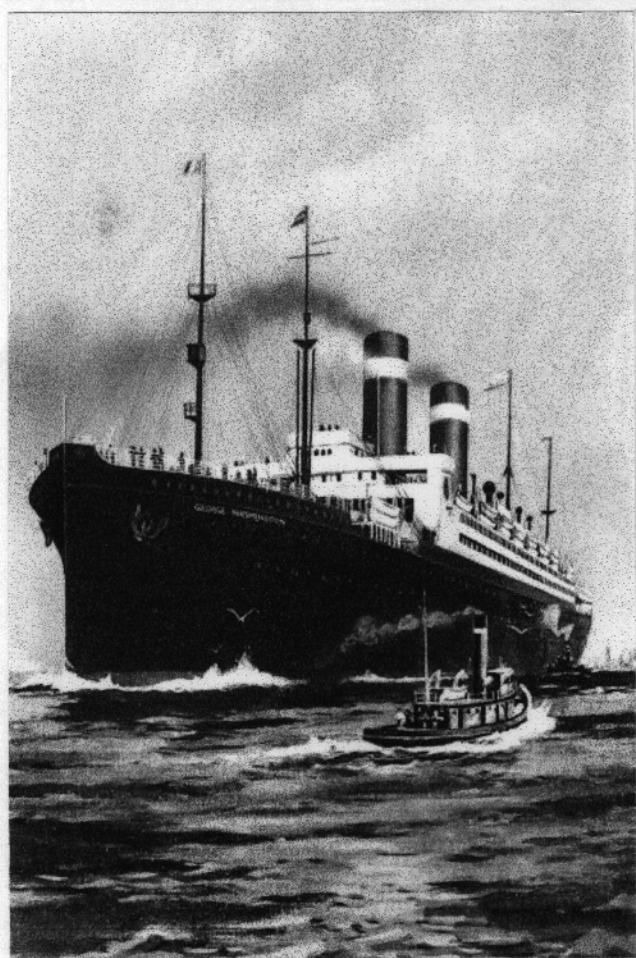
Issue 32

Greendale, Wisconsin

March, 2001

## History of The SS George Washington

The SS George Washington was the ship that my maternal grandparents, John and Anna Mikel, traveled on when they left Czechoslovakia via Bremen, Germany for the United States. John Mikel came first in 1912, seeking a new home in Wisconsin. He left behind his wife Anna and one son, Bohumil Mikel. Anna was pregnant with my mother Mary Ann Mikel but John was unaware of that. John Mikel arrived on March 19, 1912, at Ellis Island, New York.



SS George Washington in 1912

Two years later Anna, her son Bohumil and daughter Mary Ann Mikel traveled on the same ship from Bremen to New York. They arrived on June 8, 1914, at Ellis Island, New York. Following is a brief history of that ship and a postcard from the ship.

The SS GEORGE WASHINGTON was built by AG Vulcan, Stettin, for Norddeutscher Lloyd Lines in Germany, and was launched on November 10, 1908. The ship was 25,570 tons and measured 699.1 x 78.2 feet (length x breadth). The ship featured 2 funnels, 4 masts; twin screw propulsion, and a service speed of 18 knots. The ship had accommodations for 568 1st-class, 433 2nd-class, 452 3rd-class, and 1,226 steerage-class passengers along with a crew of 585.

On June 12, 1909, the ship made her maiden voyage, from Bremerhaven, Germany -Southampton-Cherbourg - New York. The ship made her last voyage on July 25, 1914, covering the exact same route as her maiden voyage. She arrived in New York on August 3, 1914. From 1914 through 1917, the ship was interned at New York. On April 6, 1917, the ship was seized by the United States and pressed into service for the military.

The ship was used during the first world war as a US Navy transport. In 1919, as an army transport,

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it carried President Woodrow Wilson to France for the Versailles Conference.

In January 1920, the ship was transferred to the United States Shipping Board, and in October of that year, it was chartered to the United States Mail Lines. It was refitted by Tietjen & Lang, New York as a passenger ship with accommodations for 573 1st-class, 442 2nd-class, and 1,485 3rd-class passengers. Steerage class had been eliminated.

The ship was in service starting on August 3, 1921, for the United States Lines. Passenger accommodations were modified several times over the next 10 years in order to compete in the highly competitive shipping market.

On October 6, 1931, the ship made its last commercial voyage from Hamburg-Southampton-Cherbourg - New York and arrived on the 16th of October. In 1932, she was towed to Patuxent River, Maryland, and laid up.

In 1940, The ship was reactivated as the CATLIN and pressed into service as a U.S. Navy transport. In 1941, she became a British transport and her name reverted back to the SS GEORGE WASHINGTON. In February 1942, she was returned to U.S. Maritime Commission for malfunctioning boilers. From June 1942 through April 1943, she was used primarily for journeys between New York and Panama. The ship was extensively rebuilt by Todd's Ship Builders, Brooklyn in 1943, and was converted to oil fuel. The funnels were also reduced to one. In April 1943, she again became a U.S. Army transport ship.

Following the war in March 1947, the ship was seriously damaged in a fire at New York. She was laid up at Baltimore and on January 17, 1951, she was gutted by fire and finally scrapped.

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**Check out our family web site at:**

**<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/heck.html>**  
Family photos, genealogy, stories and many links to all branches of our family can be found there.

**Adeline Heinrichs  
1921 - 2001**

Adeline Jacob Heinrichs was born on 11 July 1921 at DeSmet, South Dakota. She married Carl Heinrichs on 28 July 1945 at Wausau, Wisconsin.



*Carl & Adeline's wedding in 1945 with Carl's family.*

*Lorraine Heinrichs Teuke, sister-in-law of Adeline Heinrichs, sent in the following e-mail:*

This obituary is just for your information. It doesn't say much, but then there was really no one left in Adeline's family who knew much about her.

**ADELINE HEINRICHS**

"Adeline D. Heinrichs, 79, 1010 E. Wausau Ave., died Friday, Jan. 19, 2001, at Colonial Manor Medical and Rehabilitation Center, Wausau. Adeline had operated an upholstery business prior to her retirement. Survivors include nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Services will be at 7 p.m. at the Peterson Funeral Home, 1302 Sixth St., Wausau. The family will greet friends following the service at the funeral home."



I went to the funeral service and was pleased that the priest who did the service gave a very nice homily and mentioned Carl and also Adeline's sisters. He told about all the years she had served as president of the bowling league, including a term as state president, and also about the work she did with the Circle of Joy at church.

It's so sad to see someone leave this life with so few people to mourn her. All her immediate family predeceased her. A nice group of friends came, however, and our family was represented by Joy Happli, Rose's daughter, and by Marge Heinrichs, Gordon's wife, and me.

Enough of the sad news! All my siblings seem to be doing well, considering that we're all getting on in years and many of us have health problems. However, we all still have our minds intact and enjoy the visits we have with each other, whether by phone or letter or in person. I guess the good old sing - along poker games are a thing of the past, but Rose and I still play cards when I visit her, which is twice a week, and when Joan comes the three of us shuffle the pasteboards a bit.

Best wishes from Rose and me for a quick end to winter and a quick arrival of spring.

Lorraine Teuke

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I remember the visits that we had with Carl and Adeline when I was just a kid. Back then there were no television stations in Wausau. Carl and Adeline were great baseball fans and would always visit us in Racine, Wisconsin during the World Series. We could get the Milwaukee TV stations as well as the Chicago stations.

I remember waiting on the front porch for their arrival. It seemed to take forever for them to get there.

Carl and Adeline would pull up in their Ford "Woody" station wagon and we would always have a great visit with them. I still remember Adeline referring to us as "birds" but I have no idea of why

she did that. I surmised that Wausau had a lot of streets named after birds and that anyone from out of town was some sort of bird to her. She was always fun to be with and she usually had some candy or some other gift for my two brothers and me. Carl was always cracking jokes of one kind or another and I found it neat when he would ask me to buy a few cigars for him at Morgie's Grocery store just down the street.

When the World Series started it was time for little kids to become invisible. They were there to watch the games and not to listen to kids. When the ball game was over for the day it was back to playing around with them.

I remember one year when I was little we were driving up north for a fishing vacation at Townsend, Wisconsin. I had been collecting night crawlers for two weeks and had the nicest pile of fat juicy crawlers that you ever did see. The night crawlers were packed away in a wooden cherry box filled with nice black dirt. I put the night crawlers in the trunk of the car for the long trip up north.

What I didn't know at the time was that we were going to stop in Wausau for a three day visit with Carl and Adeline. It was July and the sun was bright and the temperature was in the upper 90's. The car was parked in the direct sunlight for all three days.

I was so busy having fun with Carl and Adeline that I completely forgot about the night crawlers in the trunk of the car. When it was time to continue our trip up north we went out to the car to pack our belongings into the trunk.

I remember that as we walked up to the car we could smell something that is beyond description. When we opened the trunk we knew exactly what was causing all of the upturned noses.

All of my night crawlers were baked into a steaming hot casserole and everything in the car stunk to high heaven. I can still see both Carl and Adeline

laughing so hard that their sides were beginning to hurt.

We drove up north with all the windows wide open and our heads hanging out but we still could smell those worms for weeks.

I'll always have fond memories of Carl and Adeline and I'm sure that they are both still laughing about my baked worms.

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### The Descendants of Nairn Burgess 1804 - 1877

The following narrative was found in New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial by William R. Cutter. While there were many errors in Mr. Cutter's works, the descendants of Nairn Burgess appear to be accurate.

Nairn Burgess was a brother of Benjamin Burgess. He is buried at the Walloomsac, New York Cemetery next to Benajah Burgess and Zilpha Matteson, his parents.

(VII) Nairn Burgess, son of Benajah Burgess, was born December 23, 1804. He was a farmer in Hoosick, NY and was buried in that town. He married, November 16, 1828, Ruth Jewett, who was born September 20, 1807. Her grandfather was a soldier in the battle of Bennington in the revolution. Children: Caroline, born April 2, 1831; Eliza Ann, born May 11, 1833; Loan Jewitt, born September 18, 1835; Nairn, mentioned below; Giles Jewett, born October 13, 1841; Edna Augusta, born February 29, 1844.

(VIII) Nairn (2) Burgess, son of Nairn (1) Burgess, was born at Hoosick, New York, February 19, 1838. In early life he was a farmer. He then went south and lived for a time at Atlanta, Georgia, later he was a conductor of a Pullman car for a time. Returning to North Hoosick, New York, he conducted a hotel for a number of years. He married, October 17, 1861, Helen Caroline Houghton, who was born at Shaftsbury, Vermont, January 22, 1841, daughter of Charles E. and Mary Esther (Hutchins) Houghton (see Houghton). Children of

Nairn and Helen Caroline (Houghton) Burgess: Frederick Elmer, mentioned below; Charles N., born August 9, 1867, died September 14, 1867; William Houghton, born February 2, 1869; Edmund H., born July 19, 1871, died March 19, 1894. Helen Caroline Burgess married (second) July 24, 1878, Hiram Cole, of North Bennington, Vermont, who died March 11, 1893. Children of second marriage: Charles, born June 22, 1882, died March 11, 1893; Parker U., born December 14, 1885.

(IX) Frederick Elmer Burgess, son of Nairn (2) Burgess, was born at Hoosick, New York, December 19, 1863. He attended the public schools and was graduated from the high school of North Bennington, Vermont. He began his business career as clerk in the National Bank of North Bennington. After two years and a half, he resigned his position in the bank to accept a clerkship in the office of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company of New York City, in the office of the secretary, purchasing agent and treasurer. In the spring of 1883 he became a bookkeeper and teller in the Merchants' National Bank of Burlington, Vermont, and he remained with that institution for six years. He was then chosen cashier of the Howard National Bank, of which he became vice-president in 1898 and president in 1909. He engaged in the lumber business in 1898 and since then has been president of the Horatio Hickok Lumber Company, which produces five hundred carloads of shooks annually, consuming fifteen million feet of lumber. Mr. Burgess is also president of the City Trust Company, of which he was one of the founders in 1911. He is vice-president and director of the Hotel Vermont Company; director of the Baldwin Refrigerator Company; of the Champlain Manufacturing Company, which makes chairs for the export trade; the Welch Brothers Maple Company, manufacturers of maple sugar products; the Burlington Light and Power Company. In politics he is a Republican and for several years he was a member of the Republican State Committee and for some years its secretary. He served on the school board for four years. He served on the staff of Governor William W. Stickney and also on the staff of Governor John G. McCullough as colonel. He is a member



of Washington Lodge, No. 3, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; of Burlington Chapter, No. 3, Royal Arch Masons; of the Sons of the American Revolution, and of the Unitarian Church.

He married, June 23, 1885, Agnes A. Huling, of North Bennington, Vermont, a daughter of Milo C. and Amelia (Phillips) Huling, a granddaughter of Daniel and great-granddaughter of Captain Alexander Huling, a noted sea captain (see Huling). Children of Mr. and Mrs. Burgess: 1. Helen Madeline, born November 7, 1888; married, October 19, 1912, Lieutenant Archibald T. Colley, of the Tenth United States Cavalry, now stationed at Fort Ethan Allen. 2. Frederick Vaughn, born September 11, 1892, graduate of St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire, and of Yale University.

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### Gary Heck Gets Computer

Now this might not seem like a newsworthy item for a family news letter but when you're the last person in the state of South Carolina to get a computer, that's news. There are still people down there without electricity who run around bare-footed yet they figured out how to get an extension cord long enough to connect to their neighbor's house so that they can run their Pentium III 900 megahertz computer. After all, a computer is a great way to keep track of those moonshine sales.

I tried to talk Gary into a computer for many years but he wouldn't listen. His usual response was that he had one once but he only used it to play Pong. For you younger readers, Pong was an ancient game played with two electronic paddles that moved up and down on your TV screen to hit a ball from one side of the screen to the other. The game was played on a black and white TV. And yes, Bill, this was sometime after dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Anyway, Gary's daughter, Lee Heck, bought her fifth computer and decided to give her dad the old one. Gary could hardly say no to such a fantastic gift. Soon (two months later) the computer was set

up and running and Gary got on the Internet. His e-mail address is:

gheck@bellsouth.net

If you get a chance send Gary & Carol an e-mail to welcome them to the world.

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### Pictures From Alendorf, Germany

On the following page you will find a collection of eight pictures of the Alendorf, Germany area, found while researching on the Internet. The first picture at upper left is the church in Esch, Germany where Anna Lucia Heck married Johann Peter Schmidt on 27 February 1811. They were the parents of Johann Heck, my great great grandfather, who was born a year earlier at Alendorf.

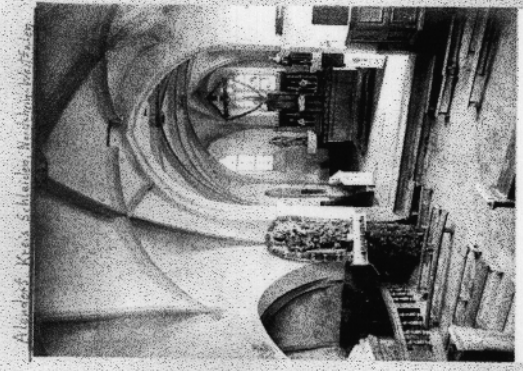
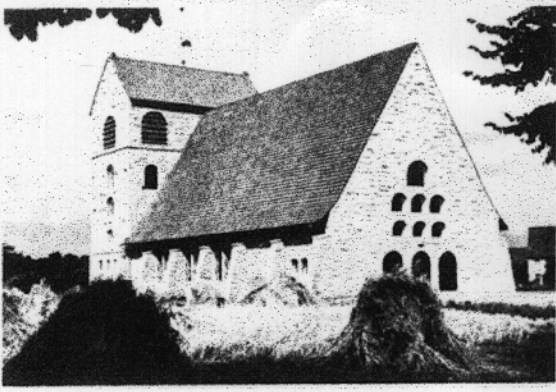
Esch is a small town located a few miles west of Alendorf. Catholic Church records from Alendorf show that Johann Heck was born illegitimately on 17 February 1810 and that his birth was "subsequently legitimized by the marriage of his parents."

The second photo was taken in 1932 and shows the inside of the old Catholic church, known as St. Agatha, at Alendorf, Germany. The church was built in 1494 and is still standing to this day despite many wars in the region. The church is over 500 years old and was the site of many events in our family's history. The church was closed and no longer in use when we visited there in 1989 yet it appeared to be in good structural condition. A new church was built in Alendorf in 1939 and we were able to see the inside of that church.

St. Agatha's church was the place where Peter, Anna Lucia, Henry, Joseph and Clara Heck were baptized between 1834 and 1843. Their parents, Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer, were also baptized and married in the same church.

The other photos show Stations of the Cross at St. Agatha's that were built in the early 1600's. Most of those pictures were taken in 1952.

St. C. v. Neustalern über Nebenbren-Phaselbren,  
Sprachlehr-Station

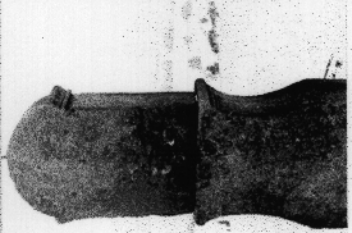


Alte Kirche, Kr. Schleiden, St. Agatha  
Innenansicht nach Osten 1932  
BBA XR 45/4/1 - 1932 t. n.

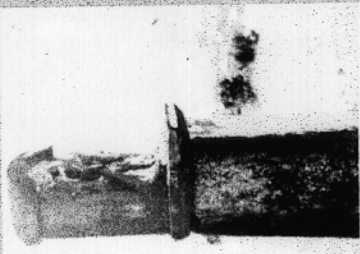
Alte Kirche, Kr. Schleiden, Nordost-Außenansicht



Alendorf, Kr. Schleiden, NW,  
Kreuzweg zur Agathakapelle,  
Station  
BBA XR 45/3.-/1952



Alendorf, Kr. Schleiden, NW,  
Kreuzweg zur Agathakapelle,  
Station  
BBA XR 45/4.-/1952



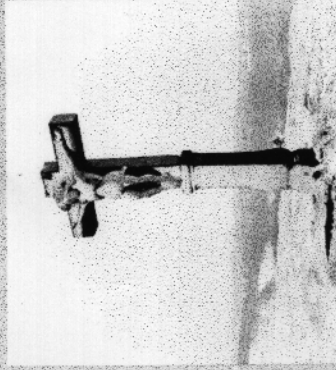
Alendorf, Kr. Schleiden, NW,  
Kreuzweg zur Agathakapelle,  
Station  
BBA XR 45/3.-/1952



Alendorf, Kr. Schleiden, NW,  
Kreuzweg zur Agathakapelle,  
Station  
BBA XR 45/7.-/1952



Alendorf, Kr. Schleiden, NW,  
Kreuzweg zur Agathakapelle,  
Station  
BBA XR 45/3.-/1952



Alendorf, Kr. Schleiden, NW,  
Kreuzweg zur Agathakapelle,  
Station  
BBA XR 45/6.-/1952



## Meet Sarah Elizabeth Miller



Jeff and Sue (Bark) Miller are very happy and proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Miller, born on November 17, 2000. Sarah weighed in at six pounds and six ounces. We don't know her length but she appears to be the same length as the teddy bear.

On September 21, 1999, Jeff and Sue had their first child, Alex Paul Miller, who was stillborn. We published a letter from Sue and Jeff in our March, 2000 issue of "Our Family News Letter" announcing this sad occasion. Now one year later we are very happy to show you a picture of Sara Elizabeth Miller.

I'm sure that I speak for all of our readers when I offer our very best wishes and heartfelt congratulations to Sue and Jeff.

## A Special Thank You.....

I would like to thank the following subscribers of **Our Family News Letter** who made contributions recently for keeping this newsletter going. As you know, I have never charged for the newsletter which has been published every three months since June, 1993. I have always relied on the generous contributions from our readers plus my own funds

to keep subscriptions free. It takes a lot of work to put together a newsletter and the cost is rather high with 60 subscribers. But this is a labor of love and is my way of sharing a very rich family history with all of you. Thanks again to our honored contributors: **Alvin & Carolyn Heck Jr., Lolita Manske, Howard & Anne Heck, Don & Marjory Johnson, Sue & Jeff Miller, Gordon & Margaret Heinrichs, and Norma Jean Collins.**

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## Eugene "Butch" Heinrichs 1928 - 2001

Eugene Heinrichs, 72, Stevens Point, formerly of Wausau, died Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2001, under the care of Hospice of Portage County at St. Michael Hospital in Stevens Point. He was the president of Milwaukee Stockyards Inc., retiring in 1989. He was also a self-employed accountant.

Survivors include his wife, Beverly Heinrichs, Stevens Point; two sons, John (Cheryl) Heinrichs, Hays, Kansas, and Mark (Judy) Heinrichs, Milwaukee; one granddaughter; one brother, Gordon (Margaret) Heinrichs, Wausau; five sisters, Rosemary Reynolds, Gerry Zarnke and Lorraine Teuke, all of Wausau, Dorothy (Jack) Johnson, Shawano, and Joan Woolley, Green Bay.

Private services will be Tuesday in New Berlin. Burial will be in Milwaukee. Memorials may be directed to Hospice of Portage County.

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## **From the Photo Album....**

On the next page are photos from my dad's collection of pictures. Starting at upper left and going clockwise: **1.** Alvin & Stella Heck holding their daughter, Joanne in 1936. **2.** Walker Manufacturing Company in about 1938. The third person from the front is Clarence Heck. The lone worker on the left is Harvey Nelson, brother-in-law of my dad. The picture was in a Walker publication and stated "High speed drills machining the small parts for Walker Jacks." **3.** Edward, Jim, Allen, Greg and Sue Bark in 1963. **4.** Mary & Bob Heck with Joanne Heck in 1936. **5.** Alvin & Stella Heck. **6.** Margaret (Henningfeld) Heck and her grand daughter, Joanne Heck in 1936.

